

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph after the Title on page 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national phase of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/014727, which was filed on December 27, 2004 and claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Applications Ser. No. 60/544,967 filed February 13, 2004, Ser. No. 60/591,775 filed July 27, 2004 and Ser. No. 60/592,208 filed July 29, 2004. The full disclosure of these earlier applications is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Another approach to decrease the resolution is to introduce an immersion liquid having high refractive index into the gap that remains between a final lens element on the image side of the projection objective and the photoresist or another photosensitive layer to be exposed. Projection objectives that are designed for immersion operation and are therefore also referred to as immersion objective may reach numerical apertures of more than 1, for example 1.3 or 1.4. The term "immersion liquid" shall, in the context of this application, relate also to what is commonly ~~referred~~ referred to as "solid immersion". In the case of solid immersion, the immersion liquid is in fact a solid medium that, however, does not get in direct contact with the photoresist but is spaced apart from it by a distance that is only a fraction of the wavelength used. This ensures that the laws of geometrical optics do not apply such that no total reflection occurs.